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THE

PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE]

P.

THE GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1886

THE
PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN;
OR,
VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE,
EXEMPLIFIED IN THE
HISTORY
OF
LUCRETIA LAWSON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N.

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MDCCXC.



P R E F A C E.

"I Cannot positively publish a book without a preface," says the bookseller to the author—"it will never do—one might as well give a new play without a prologue, a song without a symphony, or a —— in short, a preface is one of those useful no-
A things

ii P R E F A C E.

things, that cannot be dispensed with."

So then I must write a preface, about what? *nothing* or *nonsense*, but how is it possible, I, a woman, can pretend to discant on a theme which no philosopher of the ages past or present, has touched upon — it is equally above mine, as their capacity; and for the other, I should certainly be safe from criticism, for were I to write eternally with eternal impunity, as Hudibras says,

"Non-

P R E F A C E. iii

“ Nonsense being neither true
“ nor false, is ever safe ever un-
“ answerable.”

Proceed I therefore to say some-
thing in palliation of the offence
I have been guilty of, in submit-
ting the performance to the peru-
sal of the public, conscious as I
am of the many imperfections
it contains.

However to us an old adage,
“ As a fault owned is half amend-
“ ed,” by this candid declaration

iv P R E F A C E.

I hope and expect to obtain indulgence.

④ *Criticism* I fear not, as even the productions of the most learned cannot escape that fiery ordeal, and as this is the first, and will be perhaps the last appearance I shall ever make in the literary way, I care not whether it is dissected by the *Chirurgeons des Livres*, or permitted quietly to be buried in oblivion.

One hope I have left, which is, that I have not departed from
the

P R E F A C E. v

the general rule of *Novel writing*—
the *moral* part I have not suffered
virtue to languish in adversity—
and wretchedness or vice to tri-
umph, even in outward appear-
ance.

It has often been alledged as
an objection to novels, that they
are all fiction—which is in some
measure true, but I cannot per-
ceive that there is any *crime* in
giving scope to the imagination,
provided it is not loosed beyond
the bounds of decency and pro-
bability,

vi P R E F A C E.

bability, and does not raise the passions to a degree of criminality.—I believe it will be difficult to prove that the quickness and velocity of the animal spirits is any iniquity.

There is no species of writing whatever, which is so much read by young people as novels; and why not?—then adapt them to young minds, to paint vice in such colours as to allure and decoy to its wiles, instead of affrighting and deterring from the pursuit, is dangerous and blame-

P R E F A C E. vii

blameworthy — but, where that is not the case, and only uniformity of conduct, greatness of soul, disinterested friendship and love (besides all the cardinal virtues) are held up as worthy of imitation, there can be no harm in a novel.

The reading of a novel cannot fail of giving an idea of the restless state of human life — the progressive scenes of infancy — youth — manhood, and old age, inforces on the mind

viii P R E F A C E.

mind, the quick transition from one state to another, and the short duration of all; and like as in a book, we are always anxious to proceed farther than we can read—so in life we are in haste to get rid of the present moment, and grasping at some future imaginary joy, which when it comes may not be productive of so much satisfaction as the (in general) happy terminations of a *nove'*; and to

P R E F A C E. ix

use the words of an ancient
writer,

“We grow weary of instant
“pleasure, after having, perhaps,
“passionately wished for it, and
“conceive still more pleasing ones
“in a distant prospect, which
“when we have overtaken,
“grows tasteless; and contra-
“dictory as it may appear, dis-
“content arise from gratifica-
“tion.”

And

x P R E F A C E.

And now methinks I hear a female demand of another having begun the following history (it's being new) how she likes it—and she in reply with the sagacity of a person who being asked what he thinks of the weather, after it has rained some time, says that it will either clear up or rain faster—that it will either improve agreeably as it proceeds, or degenerate into absolute nonsense, which for fear I should do now, I think

it

P R E F A C E. xi

it best to conclude, and though
sufficiently tired, not without
intreating the reader's pardon for
having detained her so long, on
so uninteresting a theme.

THE F.A.C.E.

it had to be done, and though
difficulty was not without

in some cases a great deal of
having learned her to long, on
to maintaining a liberal

and the same

the same

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the same

PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

L E T T E R I.

To Miss ALTON.

Grosvenor-Square.

THOUGH but ten days have elapsed since we parted, I cannot withstand the pleasure of writing to my Emily, and according to promise, informing her how I like my new situation.

VOL. I.

B

My

My Guardian, Sir John Wyndham, is a man by no means calculated to execute the trust my father reposed in him, his time being entirely taken up with company, and the fashionable amusements.

His wife is so fine a lady, that for my part, I have not seen her above three times since my arrival—She seldom rises till one o'clock, and then what with morning visits, dressing, company, &c. she has no time to spare on so insignificant a being as myself.

She endeavoured when I first came, to persuade me to lead the same kind of life as herself, but find-

finding I was of so OLD FASHIONED a disposition, (that was her expression) she left me to pursue my inclinations—" Lord, Miss Lawson," said she, "one would really think you had been educated in the last century, to prefer working and reading before company and public amusements." " Well, if I had twenty children, I would never put one of them to Mrs. Williams."—I wish I had not quitted that dear woman yet.

Would you believe it, I am as much at a loss for a companion here, as if I was in the middle of a desert. There is a lady whom the servants call, my Lady

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Wyndham's companion, that seems to be a sensible woman : I will find an opportunity of discoursing with her, perhaps I may form an acquaintance, at least, to pass away a few of the heavy hours.

Write to me, my Emily, frequently, for it is the greatest pleasure your friend now experiences.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

L E T-

L E T T E R II.

TO MISS LAWSON.

Elm Wood.

I Have quitted a very agreeable party to perform the still MORE AGREEABLE task of writing to my Lucretia.

But first, let me execute my commission, which is to intreat you to favour us with a visit. — I have said so much about you, to my father and mother, that they are as anxious to see you as

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I had almost said, myself — the season, I own is not inviting, but I have the vanity to think we could make it more pleasing to you than your present abode.

Indeed, my dear girl, I pity you, for society is, in my opinion, the only thing that makes life desirable.

How can Lady Wyndham be so blind to the perfections of my dear friend! she does not deserve to have so great a jewel under her roof and protection, nor should she, were you in the same mind as myself.

Our

Our dear Mrs. Williams, used often to say to me, that when you left her, she should lose the greatest ornament of her school, "but," said she, "I must not think to possess the dear girl's company for ever—she is formed to adorn even a Court."

You know not the tears she shed on your departure.

I think Lucretia, you will be captivated with our house—the situation is really delightful, even to me, who am not so romantically fond of the country as you are; but I will forbear a description, as you will, I hope, soon

B 4 see

see the scenes I could but faintly describe.

The thoughts of seeing you are so pleasing, that I think of scarce any thing else: I have already fixed upon your chamber—Do not therefore disappoint the wishes of your

EMILY ALTON.

L E T.

L E T T E R III.

TO LORD MORETON.

Grosvenor-Square.

THE Girl I told you of, my Ward, is come to live with us—A most charming little baggage, I do assure you, and very highly accomplished; but she is so prudent and so untaught in the mysteries of polite life, that my Lady Wyndham says she cannot think of introducing her among her acquaintance.

For my part, I am not sorry for it; for I do not wish her to be

B 5

known,

known, as the fortune she is possessed of may be very convenient some time or other.

I have had a confounded run of ill luck lately :—that stranger whom you saw the other night, at Brookes's, stripped me of all the cash I had about me, to the amount of four thousand pounds. I am going to night, to try to redeem it.

I know you wish me success ; so sans ceremonie.

I remain yours, &c.

JOHN WYNDHAM.

L E T.

LETTER IV.

TO MISS ALTON,

Grosvenor-square.

THANKS to my kind friends for their polite invitation to Elm Wood. I will endeavour to obtain Sir John's permission, to pay you a visit: he is very polite to me: begs I will look upon his House, Servants, Equipage, &c. as my own: and my Lady yesterday, for the first time, did me the *honour* to invite me to a masked ball; which has been, I am informed, all the winter

preparing. As I belonged to the House, I did not appear in any character, nor did I stay above an hour in the rooms: for of all amusements, I think a masquerade the most insipid. — I never was at one before, and did not think it possible for a set of rational beings to assemble together, for the purpose of exchanging a few questions, void even of common sense, much more of wit.

Ah Emily! Heaven grant me a competency, with a few sensible companions; and now and then a little of public life, to make the serene joys attending a domestic one, still more pleasing — and let those enjoy life, as

it

it is called, that have not sense to distinguish LIVING from mere existing.

I told you in my last, I would find an occasion of speaking to Miss Spencer: she appears to be a most amiable woman: her father, she informed me, was a clergyman, and Chaplain to Sir Thomas Wyndham: and as his residence was entirely in the country, he intrusted to Sir Thomas's management, a sum of money he had saved, as a portion for his only child.

The old gentleman very faithfully executed his trust — and when he died, which was suddenly,

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denly, Mr. Spancer endeavoured to draw the sum from Sir John's hands, as it was well known, that he had by his extravagance, very much involved himself.

A law-suit was commenced against him, but in vain, and the loss was the occasion of the good man's death, who left his poor girl **FRIENDLESS and FORLORN.**

Sir John, to screen himself, I suppose, from the disgrace attending such an action, took her into his house, where she lives in a state of servile attendance on the whims and fancies of a capricious woman. Is she not very much to be pitied Emily? She is very pretty,

pretty, and seems to be about twenty-two years of age..

As I hope to see you soon, I will defer, till then, communicating a scheme I have in my head, and which I want to consult you about.

Adieu, my dear girl.

Believe me, yours ever.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET-

LETTER V.

TO LORD MORETON.

Grosvenor-square.

I Think I am infatuated, Moreton: I lost last night again, the vast sum of ten thousand pounds; and yet, I cannot find in my heart to quit the gaming table.—I was, I confess, obliged to dip into my Ward's fortune, to pay the debt.

Do, Moreton, come to town and make love to the poor girl; the charms of a title, on your side,

sister, perhaps will compensate for the want of youth — and you I know are not mercenary; you will like a fine girl, as well with twenty, as thirty thousand pounds.

Believe me, you must hasten though, for my creditors begin to be very importunate, and you know, "*Necessitas non habet Legem.*"

Adieu,

Yours, &c.

JOHN WYNDHAM.

LET-

LETTER VI.

TO SIR JOHN WYNDHAM.

Newmarket.

AND so thou really thinkest I
will now enter the lists,
after having lived so many years
free as air—Not not—Wyndham,
I adore the fair sex, but never
will I bind myself to them by
any other ties than those which
“ LOVE HAS MADE.” I will,
however come to town shortly
and see whether your opinion
is

is mine, with respect to this same Ward of yours: perhaps I may be inclined, merely out of friendship to you; tho' as money is not my pursuit, and she answers my expectations, to take the girl off your hands: and you may make yourself master of her fortune—canst thou shew me any hero of antiquity, who ever made a greater sacrifice to the shrine of Venus!

I have discarded my little PSYCHE, and turned her over to an old acquaintance with whom I one day found her coquetting. The little Gypsy grew insufferable of late; elated at her good fortune in fixing me for two years

years, (a space of time long enough to tire any man of taste) she knew no bounds to her avarice, and threaten'd to leave me, if I did not settle two thousand a year on her for life.

The girl was handsome to be sure, but could never expect to make her fortune any other way.

Her parents were of an opinion, that if they gave her a good education, she stood in no need of FORTUNE to support it—consequently Miss imbibed so much pride and affectation, with her dancing, her singing, &c. that

that she thought of nothing but how to dress, and give herself airs sufficient to captivate the heart of a man of quality—it was easy enough therefore to fill her head with notions of marriage-settlements and titles.

I happened to sit in the same box with her one night at the play, and sending a servant to follow her home; was surpris'd at finding her to be the daughter of a RETAILER of RIBBONS.

I contriv'd to convey a letter to her the next day—her vanity was gratified, and in less than a fortnight I perswaded her to elope

elope with me—for a long while I could not prevail upon her to believe that I never mentioned the word MARRIAGE to her, and I was obliged to have resource to a few stratagems, a diamond Pin, and a new coach conquered, and she consented to make me happy.

Her Father and Mother, I am told, broke their hearts, for the loss of their DEAR CHILD; but that I do not accuse myself of. If girls will be forward, is a man to be blamed for seizing the opportunity?

The idea of being blessed with a new object, has obliged me

me to part with her sooner
than I should *otherways* have
done.

Expect me therefore, for I
am impatient till I behold the
dear Creature.

MORETON.

LET-

LETTER VII.

To Miss ALTON.

Grosvenor-square.

SIR John has been out of town this week, therefore, I have asked lady Wyndham's permission to pay you a visit: and if nothing intervenes, will be with you on Wednesday next.

I have had several Interviews with Miss Spencer, and find she is very unhappy in her present situation with lady Wyndham.

In my last I mentioned to you
taking

a scheme I had in agitation of
taking a house in the country,
and retiring with Harriet,

Where we should live remov'd from noise,
Remov'd from scenes of care and strife;
And only taste those tranquil joys
Which heav'n bestows on rural life.

But before I proceed to take
so important a step, I could
wish to consult some experienced
friend.—Alas! where shall I find
that friend?

I have no one, but our dear
Mrs Williams, to whom I can
apply—to her, therefore will I go,
when I return from Elm-wood.

Adieu EMILY.
I am very much out of spirits.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

C

LET-

LETTER VIII.

TO MISS LAWSON,

Grosvenor-Square.

DEAR MADAM.

YOUR condescending goodness in taking notice of one, whom I thought was forgotten and alone in the world, is so deeply impressed on my heart, that time never can erase the obligations, nor can I find language sufficient to express my gratitude: Daily do I invoke for you, the blessings
and

and protection of that providence which has raised me up so great a benefactress.

Since your departure, I have thought my own situation more irksome than ever—nor do I bear it with that patience and resignation I did before—the house has lost its only charm.

Sir John came home the day you left us, and was very much surpris'd at finding that you was gone—he flew into a most violent passion with my lady, and they have not spoke since. Surely there could be no harm in your going to so worthy a family as is Mr Alton's.

I am fearful he has some scheme in agitation to your prejudice; for passing by the room last night, where Sir John and another gentleman, was sitting, I overheard the former exclaim, "Believe me, I know not of her absence, but as soon as she returns, I will resign her entirely to you." What he mean't, I cannot divine: but have we not always reason to be afraid, while in the power of such a man?

Adieu, DEAR MADAM.

Favour me soon with a few lines, to let me know how I am to act.

HARRIET SPENCER.

LET.

L E T T E R IX.

TO MISS SPENCER.

Elm-Wood.

YOU astonish me, my dear friend; what can be Sir John's meaning?—I have shewed your letter to Mr and Mrs Alton, and they are equally surprised with myself—and advise me above all things, never to return to my Guardian again: nor do I think it right to stay too long here—shall therefore trouble you to take a small house for me, in a retired part of the town. The

B 3.

plea--

pleasure I experience with my friends, has been damped, I own, by the behaviour of Sir John. Had my first Guardian, Mr Douglas, been alive, I should not been left to wander alone in the labrinth of life.

My poor father little thought to whose care he had left his Lucretia. Such specious appearances, would have deceived a more suspicious disposition than his was.

But providence that never forsakes the orphan, will always, I trust, grant me fortitude to bear whatever trials I am doomed to undergo.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LE T.

LETTER X.

TO SIR JOHN WYNDHAM.

Pall-mall.

UPON my soul, Wyndham, it was ungrateful, after the sacrifice I had promised to make you, to send the girl out of my sight—What, I suppose you had some qualms of conscience concerning the business? fie! fie!—I did not think you would have played me such a trick.

But remember, I depend on your promise, to let me see her yet.

C 4

You

You say, you know where she is: why do not you send for her? invent some excuse or other.

Zounds!—one would think you had never known what it was to live in expectation of being blessed with a new object.

MORETON.

LET-



LETTER XI.

To Miss LAWSON.

I Have obeyed my dear Miss Lawson's orders, and have taken a house in Queen Street, Berkley-square.

I hardly know what excuse to make to Lady Wyndham, that might warrant my leaving her at so little notice; however, I told her I had an offer made me of residing with an old lady, an acquaintance of my mother's, who was going to live in the country.

She told me she was sorry to part with me, as I had given her more SATISFACTION than any servant she ever had: and turning to the housekeeper, who was present, You may give Spencer a character, said she, if she requires one. I own I was hurt by her speech, though it was the kindest she had made for sometime.

Heaven I hope will forgive me for the falshood I invented, as the happiness of my dear benefactress, depends on keeping her place of abode a secret from this detested family.

HARRIET SPENCER.

LET-

LETTER XII.

To Miss ALTON.

I Arrived safe last night at my new habitation, and am quite delighted with it—Miss Spencer has according to my directions, furnish'd it in a stile of neat elegance, with which I am much better pleased than with the costly superb mansion of the great.

The dear girl affected me much with her gratitude, she wept, called me her deliverer from a

state of bondage ; in short, I was obliged to scold, and left her to vent her grateful effusions by herself.

As my father limited my fortune to two hundred pounds a year till I came of age, I am obliged to confine myself to a small house, two servants, and no company ; for I mean to live quite retired. You, I hope, will favour me often with your company ; for you only, are made the confidant of whatever befalls your

LUCRETIA.

LET-

L E T T E R XIII.

TO LORD MORETON.

Grosvenor-square.

PERDITION seize the whole
sex! would you believe it,
Moreton—the little vixen has
taken it into her head to elope
nobody knows whither.

What can be her reason for ab-
senting herself! had I made Lady
Wyndham acquainted with my
project, I should have concluded
that

that she, like all women, and out of spite to me, had communicated the intelligence to Lucretia.

However it was, I have already sent every where I can think of, but without effect—Suppose you will not so easily give up the pursuit—therefore from henceforth, do I John Wyndham, make over, and deliver to the Right Honourable Lord Moreton, all power whatever, over **LUCKETIA LAWSON, SPINSTER**, as witness my hand, &c.

JOHN WYNDHAM.

P.S.

P.S. You know I am obliged to allow her so much a year, till she comes of age, but I will not let her have any money for the space of six months; during which time, I think, rather than starve, she will be very willing to comply with your desires.

LET.

LETTER XIV.

To Miss LAWSON.

Elm-wood.

I Have met with such an adventure—tho' it might have proved a fatal one.

Methinks, I hear you say,
 “What has this wild creature
 “found out now?” but I will not
 keep you in suspense: Returning home last night, with Miss Campbell, the lady you so much admired, while at our house,
 from

from taking a walk to the next villiage, we were surpris'd in passing thro' the wood, to hear a dog bark—but fancying it must be somebody either coming to meet us, or passing the same road, we walked to the place from whence the noise proceeded.

At a little distance from the road, lay a fine horse dead ; and near him his rider, a young gentleman senseless, with his face besmear'd with blood—I scream'd at the sight, and thinking he was also dead, would have ran away, but my companion possess'd of more presence of mind than myself, went up to him ; and wiping his face, with her hand-

handkerchief, perceived some signs of returning life—we then applied what remedies we had about us, which consisted of Salts and Eace de luce, and soon brought him to himself; tho' he was still so weak with the loss of blood, that he could not set without supporting. “Emily, “ says Miss Campbell, will you “ be so kind as to stop by the “ gentleman, while I run to “ the house, for the servants.” I did not much relish the proposal, for you know I am a terrible coward.—“ As you are the “ best physician, said I, I will “ go.”—and away went I, and brought two of our men, who conveyed

conveyed him to the house, and then to bed. A surgeon was sent for who pronounced his wound but slight, and he is much better this morning.

He is remarkable handsome, and appears to be about five and twenty—his name and place of abode, which I learnt from the dog (or rather his collar) is Henry Phillips, Esq;—of Clare-hall.

He informed us, that riding out last night, with only one servant, just at the entrance of the wood, they were beset by three highway-men,—who find-
ing

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ing Mr. Phillips made some resistance, one of them fired, and killed his horse under him, and he in falling, struck his head against the root of a tree, which was the occasion of our finding him in that condition.

His servant rode off for assistance to the next village, not knowing there was a house so near.

My Father has insisted on his staying with us a few days ; but I wish he was gone, or had never come; for indeed Lucretia, I never saw so dangerous a man.

—EMELIA ALTON.

L E T.

LETTER XV.

TO MISS ALTON.

Queen-street, Berkley-Square.

“**I**NDEED Lucretia, I never
“ saw so dangerous a Man.”

A very pretty conclusion, Miss
Emily—and is my poor friend
then already so far gone, as to
think Mr Phillips dangerous? I’ll
answer for it he thinks you
no less so. Well, Emmy, never
mind, you are blessed with
Parents, who I am certain will
never

never thwart the inclinations of so good a child.

Had heaven permitted my Father and Mother to have lived—but I will not repine at the dispensations of providence; we alas! know not what is ordained for us, therefore we should

“Where we can’t unriddle,
“learn to trust.”

Content is allowed to be the true source of happiness, therefore by that rule, I can say that I am happy; for I am contented. Ought I not be so, how far preferable is my situation to Miss Spencer’s.

She, like myself, is an Orphan and friendless—yet the poor girl, is doomed to live in a state of dependance; for dependance it still is, tho' I endeavour to treat her as a Sister.

I am sure she is not happy: I have several times found her in tears; and to-day, wanting to speak to her, I went into her chamber, where she was sitting with her handkerchief to her eyes, and a letter in her hand.

She was confused at my entrance; and getting up rather hastily, a miniature picture dropped from her lap: I took no notice of the picture—but
asked

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asked her if she had received any intelligence to cause those tears? She could not speak, but shook her head, and made a motion for me to sit down.

I obey'd, and she at last recovered herself so far as to say,
“ I should think myself highly culpable, did I try to conceal any thing from my dear Miss Lawson; the discovery you have just made (which I never intended should escape the limits of my own breast) must have a very strange appearance”—to avoid any suspicions that may arise to my prejudice, I will at some future period,

period, communicate to my dear friend, every event of my Life, which has surely been marked by the iron hand of adversity and misfortune."

I sympathised with my Harriet: told her, I never entertained an idea to her prejudice; and if she thought it would be any alleviation to her sorrows, to pour them into the bosom of a *sincere friend*, I should be glad to hear her history—but begged for the present, she would compose herself.

Poor Harriet! her fate has
D been

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been, I fear very adverse, else
why those tears?

As soon as I am informed
of it, I will transmit to you
a recital of her adventures.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET -

LETTER XV.

TO CHARLES HAMILTON, Esq;

Clare-Hall.

WOULD you believe Charles,
that I have lived for several years, near a perfect little
DIVINITY, and yet did not
even know till last week, that I
had such a neighbour.

To accident I am now indebted for the blessing—taking

a ride one fine evening attended only by my valet, I was stopped at the entrance of a Wood, by some highwaymen, who presenting Pistols insolently demanded my money—I was not in the least terrified by their behaviour; but taking no notice of them, attempted to gallop off; and as I knew my horse to be remarkably swift footed, thought I should have outrode them, but they were too resolute to let me escape without their intended booty; and one of them firing, killed my horse under me. Receiving a slight wound in my head, I lay senseless for some time; and when I recovered, found myself supported

ported by a young lady, while another applied salts to my nose.

I thought myself in a dream, and I must own to you, I pretended much more pain than I felt, for the sake of being attended by two such charming females—One of them run to a house not far distant, for further assistance—and I was soon placed under the same roof with my Emily.

The other, whom I did not much notice, was a companion only in a walk the evening my adventure happened.—The good Mr Alton insisted upon my staying a few days at his house,

though I was sufficiently cured
the second, to have returned home.

During my visit, I rivetted
my growing passion so closely to
heart, and drank from her
bright eyes such draughts of
love, that till I call her mine,
I cannot say I experience the
thoughtless, gay, and easy state
of mind I did before. As I hate
descriptions of beauty, I shall
leave you to surmise what that
woman must be who has made
so lasting an impression upon
me. I am fond of the LIVELY
LAUGHING fair one, and if I am
not mistaken, I shall not find it a
very difficult task to persuade
the

the dear girl to listen to my tales
of love — her eyes seem to say

- - - - - Hope,

for thou shalt not always sue
in vain.—But I do not mean to
address her on the subject till

I have obtained my father's con-
sent: he is very particular with

regard to his opinion of wo-
men; not one in an hundred

please him—they are so unlike
what they were in his time—

no nobility in them, he says.

When, in the name of friend-
ship dost thou propose to return

to England?

Come and follow my advice,
and take the road to matrimony,

which

which with a lovely female is the surest to bring you to the temple of happiness. I am now going to visit Miss Alton, so can only subscribe myself

Yours sincerely,

HENRY PHILLIPS.

L. E. T.

L E T T E R XVI.

To Sir JOHN WYNDHAM.

JOY! joy! Wyndham, I have found her—found the dear Lucretia, and ten thousand times more charming than you describe her to be.—'Pon honour, she is a lovely girl!

I was obliged to quit the house I had hired while in Town, as my landlord died, and his estate was sold. My good stars surely led me to engage another

directly opposite to where my fair one lives.

I was standing yesterday at my window, and observed two fine girls at an opposite one: upon observing them more attentively, I found one of them to be a perfect *Venus*. I was in rapture, and immediately sent my valet round the neighbourhood, to enquire who she was. He returned with the welcome news that one of them was called Miss Lawson, and the other, Miss Spencer; and that they had been there about three months.

I gave the fellow a guinea for his intelligence, and must now set
my

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my brains to work to contrive
a way to obtain the dear creature.

I will first try her by fair means,
and if that will not do, force shall
—for have her I will, by all the
powers of love.

MORETON.

D6 LET-

to THE PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

L E T T E R X V I I .

TO MISS LAWSON.

Elm-Wood.

O U R stranger is gone, but
as he lives but four miles
from us, scarce a day passes but
he pays us a visit.

Heigh ho! I know not what
is come to me of late; but I have
taken it into my head to dislike
company, and am never happy
but when alone.

D 6

Daily

Daily do I walk through the Wood, and to the very spot where I saw Mr Phillips.

My father, to day, asked me if I went out in search of more adventures?—I blushed and could say nothing. Ah Lucretia, your words were prophetic, for I fear I am far gone in the romantic passion.

I am ashamed of myself for encouraging a weakness, which perhaps may for ever make me miserable ; for can I suppose, can I have vanity sufficient to imagine I have made any impression on Mr Phillips? oh no, I will endeavour to suppress my growing inclination ;

clination ; and to change the subject, will inform you of a visit we paid yesterday to Mrs Campbell.

On our arrival, we were introduced to an old lady, and her niece: I had much ado to compose my features sufficiently to return the very formal courtesies which were made me.

The eldest of the ladies, was a little, fat, rosy faced woman, with great ideas of birth and gentility : she was dressed in a flaming crimson brocaded saque and coat, with the poke of her cap fastened to her smooth combed black hair, by a small diamond pin. Her figure put me in mind
of

of a turtle, whose head is almost hidden by its body.

Miss Penny her niece, was a tall aukward untaught girl, about nineteen; and her appearance was as OUTTREE as her aunt's, though she was dressed in the very extreme of the fashion—a small white silk hat, with a crown half a yard high; from the top of which, sprang three white feathers, placed so much on the left side of the head, as to put me in continual fear of its falling off.—Her gown was white muslin, very long, but placed so much behind, that I did not think she had on any other than a white persian, which

I

It afterwards perceived was her petticoat.

Mr Campbell attached himself to her the whole day, on purpose as he informed me, to improve himself by her elegant conversation.

“When do you propose to visit London again, Miss Richly?”

“Oh dear! I don’t know, but I want to go to Town sadly: my aunt says, people are never looked upon with half the respect there, as they are here; and I am afraid she won’t go this winter.”

“Why

“ Why you will be moped to
“ death here ; no Plays, no Ope-
“ ra, how do you amuse your-
“ self?”

“ Why I reads a good deal,
“ and sometimes I works; but
“ pray Sir, was you at my Lord
“ Mayor’s Ball?”

“ No never.”

“ I should like vastly to go :
“ a young lady who used to go
“ to dancing school with me,
“ says, it is the charmingest place
“ in the world ; but I likes to go
“ to the Play, and the Circus, and
“ all those places.”

“ Very pleasant, no doubt.”

“ Oh !

“ Oh! Mr. Campbell,” said the old lady, “ say nothing in their praise, for I hear of them all day long. I wish I had never taken her to London, none of her old acquaintances are fashionable enough now—there is Mr and Mrs Harvey, our Vicar and his wife, mighty good sort of people, who often come and play at Whist with us; but Penny says, Whist is quite a bore, and only fit for old folks.”

“ Well aunt, no more it an’t.”

Dinner being announced, put an end to this enchanting dialogue; and the old lady and her niece,

niece, having some miles to go, left us soon afterwards.

You have interested me so much in Miss Spencer's behalf, that I am impatient till I hear from you a recital of her misfortunes—Oh my friend, in every, even the most exalted stations, do we find something to lament, something to cause a sigh.

Reflection was never a favourable companion of mine, and whenever I perceive its approach, I fly from it, and bid it avaunt. 'Tis time therefore to say adieu.

Yours ever,
EMILY ALTON,

L E T-

L E T T E R XVII.

To Miss ALTON.

WHAT shall I do, Emily,
where shall I turn for
support?—No way have I even to
obtain my own—but not to keep
you longer in suspense—I sent
a person the other day to my
Guardian's banker, to receive
some money, as I had always
done before. I was surpris'd at
being inform'd, that Sir John
had

had given strict orders, that no money should be paid to any one, but by his orders. The messenger I sent, was an acquaintance of Miss Spencer's, and one I could depend upon. I therefore desired him to wait on Sir John. I need not have cautioned him against revealing my residence, for he did not even enquire why I had absented myself or where I was; but desired I might be informed that as I had left him, and had taken upon myself the management of my own affairs, he should not give himself any further trouble about me, nor should he send me any money.

He

He said he was very soon going to the Continent—and would before he went, give up his trust.

What a Man is this Sir John Wyndham! his deep laid schemes I am not able to fathom—but Miss Spencer says, she is certain he mean't to have fold me to the person, whoever it was she heard him discoursing with.—Heaven's ! can there be in human nature, such a wretch ? I shudder at the very thought.

When I am more composed, I will send you my dear Harriet's history.

history.—She is very ill, I fear she is in a decline, tho' she tries to make me believe there is nothing the matter with her.

Adieu Emily.

Always present my compliments to your good Papa and Mamma.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET-

LETTER XIX.

To the Same.

I Have resumed my pen, to give you the particulars of poor Harriet's life.

“ My Father and Mother
“ were both only children, and
“ both born to good expectations.
“ My Mother in particular : but
“ having married against her pa-
“ rents knowledge and consent,
“ they never saw her but once
afterwards,

“ afterwards, and when they
 “ died left their estates to ano-
 “ ther part of the family.

“ My Father possessed a na-
 “ tural severity of temper, which
 “ was rather increased by this
 “ cruel treatment of his wife.—
 “ And the dear woman, was
 “ a patient sufferer during life
 “ for one single indiscretion.

“ He was intended for the
 “ church, but when he married,
 “ had but just quitted the uni-
 “ versity—his mother having
 “ been promised preferment for
 “ him some time before she
 “ could obtain it—and at the

E

“ time

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“ time I was born, it was with
“ the utmost difficulty my Fa-
“ ther could procure his wife
“ common necessaries.

“ For three years, they were
“ obliged to reside in an obscure
“ part of the town; and my
“ poor Mother by industry, al-
“ most intirely supported a hus-
“ band and two children—the
“ youngest lived but to attain
“ her ninth year—a happy tran-
“ sition from life to immortality.

“ You will, perhaps wonder
“ why my grandmother suffered
“ an only child to drag on so
“ miserable an existence, but
“ she

“ she was a woman possessed
 “ of so much pride, that as my
 “ Mother’s relations had for-
 “ saken her, she would not be
 “ thought to take more notice of
 “ her than they did.—Mistaken
 “ notion!—detested pride! what
 “ have they not to answer for,
 “ who are so biaſſed by thy
 “ counſels, for thou art the
 “ ſource of cruelty, revenge, and
 “ almoſt every evil.

“ The Living my Father was
 “ promiſed, and which was in
 “ the vicinity of the late Sir
 “ Thomas Wyndham, at laſt
 “ fell to him. But finding his
 “ income ſtill ſmall, and want-

“ing also something to em-
 “ploy his leisure hours, he un-
 “dertook the education of three
 “young gentlemen.

“The eldest of these, the Son
 “of Sir William Haydon, was
 “a youth in every respect form-
 “ed to please, and endowed with
 “every virtue and accomplish-
 “ment: Pardon my encomium,
 “dear Miss Lawfon, but they
 “are a tribute due to departed
 “excellence.”—Here Emily, a
 shower of tears prevented her
 proceeding some time: mine al-
 so accompanied her, tho’ I knew
 not for why; it was sympathy.

“ I

“ I cannot say (continued
 “ Harriet) that for some years,
 “ I thought Mr Haydon more a-
 “ greeable than any other person
 “ of my acquaintance; but one
 “ evening receiving a slight fall
 “ from my horse, I thought I
 “ perceived in him an unusual
 “ agitation—he could hardly sup-
 “ port himself on his horse.

“ The next morning, finding
 “ me alone, he took me by the
 “ hand, and looking tenderly
 “ in my face, enquired how I
 “ did.—‘You know not, my dear
 “ Miss Spencer,’ said he, ‘what
 “ I have suffered yesterday on
 “ your account. For oh ! Har-
 “ riet,

“ riet, I feel I never shall be
“ happy without you.’

“ I looked surprised, and
“ would have retired, but he
“ catching hold of me begged
“ I would favour him with a
“ few moments hearing—I knew
“ not what to do, to stay was
“ dangerous; to go, was to re-
“ main in a state of uncertain-
“ ty : I had not much time to
“ consider, for he proceeded.—
“ ‘Pardon me, dear Madam for
“ this intrusion on your time;
“ but from the first time I saw
“ you, I have felt the power-
“ ful effects of your charms!
“ and if I am so happy as to
“ obtain

“ obtain your esteem and appro-
 “ bation, will write immediately
 “ to my Father, who I am cer-
 “ tain will think himself blef-
 “ sed by fo great an acquifition
 “ to his family.”

“ ‘Sir,’ faid I, interrupting
 “ him, ‘you, like moft young
 “ men, are too precepitae ; and
 “ do not confider the many ob-
 “ ftacles there are to what you
 “ propofe.”

“ In the firft place confider
 “ the great difference there is
 “ between us. Your Father will
 “ never confent to your marry-
 “ ing the daughter of your tu-

“tor—and I shall be looked
 “upon as a vain silly girl for
 “encouraging the addresses of a
 “person so much above me.”

“‘No,’ said he, ‘it is impossi-
 “ble for any Father to object
 “to so divine a creature! much
 “more such an one as mine
 “has proved himself to be.”

“‘You have never given him
 “cause to behave otherways,’
 “said I, ‘but depend upon it
 “you will find, I have spoken
 “truth.’

“I was retiring, but he locked
 “the door, and would not let
 “me stir, ’till he had made
 “me

" me declare he was not indif-
 " ferent to me, I blush! when
 " I think how easily I was led
 " to confess an inclination for
 " a gentleman, at the first de-
 " claration. Youth and inexpe-
 " rience, I hope, will in some
 " measure plead an excuse for
 " me. I thought it my duty
 " to acquaint my Father and
 " Mother with this interview:
 " my Father dvised, nay, com-
 " manded me, not to give my
 " lover the smallest gleam of
 " hope: it was hard, but I was
 " obliged to obey."

" Frederick Haydon, remain-
 " ed with us three months af-
 " ter this interview, and then

“ was sent for, by Sir William,
 “ who intended him for the
 “ army. He endeavoured at
 “ every meeting to draw from me
 “ a fresh declaration of love, but
 “ in vain. I dreaded my father’s
 “ anger; though I own to you
 “ had I been left to myself, I
 “ should have acted otherways
 “ —such generosity as his was,
 “ surely merited a small return.

“ At his departure, he still
 “ persisted in his resolution, of
 “ soliciting his father’s consent
 “ to our union. I tried all in
 “ my power to prevent his put-
 “ ting his design into execution,
 “ foreseeing the consequences
 that

“ that would ensue from such a
“ requisition.

“ We parted—he all life and
“ gaiety; myself quite the reverse,
“ for my adieu’s were issued from
“ a heart oppressed with so un-
“ usual a weight, that they were
“ scarcely intelligible.

“ A month passed without my
“ receiving the least intelligence
“ from Mr. Haydon, as he had
“ promised to write immediately
“ on his arrival at home. I be-
“ gan to think all the vows and
“ protestations of love he had
“ made to me, were only such as are
“ too often made by inexperienced
“ thought-

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“ thoughtless youth, to every ob-
“ ject that excites their attention.

“ One morning, a servant on
“ horseback stopt at our house,
“ and delivering a letter to my
“ father, immediately rode off.

“ My father, who instantly
“ knew the hand to be Sir Wil-
“ liam Haydon's, opened the
“ letter and took out another,
“ which was enclosed, and which
“ I perceived to be directed to
“ me.—After having read it, he
“ delivered Sir William's to me,
“ with these words.

“ As Sir William positively
“ refuses to listen to his son's
“ request,

“ request, and desires that from
 “ hence, all connection may cease
 “ between you, it is not proper
 “ that you should receive any
 “ letter from him. — For your
 “ sake therefore do I destroy Mr.
 “ Haydon’s, as the perusal can
 “ be of no service to you, after
 “ his father’s denial.’ — Getting
 “ up, he threw the letter into the
 “ fire—My mother tried to save
 “ it from the flames—but receiv-
 “ ed a reprimand for striving to
 “ nourish a passion in her daugh-
 “ ter’s bosom, which could never
 “ be attended with any but fatal
 “ consequences.

“ Such was my father’s opinion,
 “ perhaps he was right ; I own,
 “ I

“ I thought him cruel. It was
 “ some time before I could collect
 “ my spirits sufficiently to read
 “ Sir William’s letter—which as
 “ nearly as I can remember, was
 “ couched in these words.”

“ S I R,

“ Your good sense will allow
 “ that every father has a right to
 “ dispose of his own child, ac-
 “ cording to his own inclinations
 “ —it is therefore not to be won-
 “ dered at, that I have formed
 “ schemes for my son, which I
 “ supposed would have been com-
 “ plied with by him.

“ But he has informed me, his
 “ affections are so firmly fixed on
 “ your

“ your daughter, that no com-
 “ mand, or entreaty of mine, shall
 “ or can ever disengage them: but
 “ he adds, that as I do not ap-
 “ prove of the union, he will
 “ rather than be guilty of an act
 “ of disobedience, go abroad for
 “ some time, hoping I may be
 “ brought to give my consent
 “ to what will for ever make him
 “ happy.

“ I have used every method I
 “ can think of, to alter his reso-
 “ lution, but in vain—therefore
 “ he is to embark for America,
 “ in the course of a month. Fre-
 “ derick has desired I will inclose
 “ a letter to Miss Spencer, which
 “ he

“ he has promised me shall be
“ the last.

I am Sir,

Yours,

WILLIAM HAYDON.’

“ It is impossible to express
“ what I endured at this period.
“ — My Frederick embarked
“ without my taking a last fare-
“ well of him, though a favourite
“ domestic brought me a letter
“ with his picture enclosed from
“ him, the day of his departure,
“ unknown to any but myself—
“ which letter, I was reading the
“ morning I was surprised by you,
“ and

"and which I always carry about
"me"—Taking it out of her
pocket-book, she gave it me to
read at leisure. I have trans-
cribed it for your perusal.

"TO MISS SPENCER.

"Too Charming Harriet,

"In what have I offended, that

"you deny me one parting em-

"brace—that you refuse me one

"last interview?—Cruel Harriet!

"more cruel father! why did

"I flatter myself he would listen

"to my intreaties!

"I have in vain endeavoured

"to obtain his consent to our

"union

" union at my return, I have
 " even knelt to him, but to no
 " purpose—absence therefore is
 " my only refuge; for to live near
 " my dearest Miss Spencer, and
 " not to be permitted to see her,
 " would be to me worse than
 " death. — Yes, Harriet, I will
 " go, and no danger either by
 " sea or land, shall damp or stop
 " my career: for danger is my
 " pursuit, and death the goal I
 " aim at. I have enclosed my
 " picture; my vanity makes me
 " fancy you will wear it, for the
 " unhappy donor's sake. Yours
 " I took myself, unknown to
 " you; it has for some time, been
 " my only consolation; and never
 " will I part with it till I die,
 " and

" and then some kind friend will
" return it to you.

" My Harriet, a thousand times
" farewell! may every blessing
" attend you; and when I am
" no more, and you the wife of
" some happier man, let our
" portraits be conveyed to my
" father — that he may some-
" times think on the happiness
" he has deprived himself of,
" by refusing to accept of you
" for his daughter, and the mi-
" sery he has caused in the breast
" of the wretched

FREDERICK."

" Two

“ Two years passed with-
 “ out either me or Sir William
 “ hearing any tidings of his
 “ son—but the beginning of the
 “ third, brought him back again:
 “ alas! how altered, and in what
 “ an emaciated condition.

“ He had, regardless of danger,
 “ espoused the cause of his
 “ countrymen; and in a fe-
 “ vere engagement, in which
 “ the English were worsted, was
 “ among many more, taken pri-
 “ soner, and conveyed to a place
 “ little better than a dungeon,
 “ where for the space of sixteen
 “ months he had scarcely seen
 “ the light, and had no other
 “ bed

“ bed or place of rest, than a
 “ little straw. The damp of
 “ the prison and the hardness of
 “ the food allowed him, had so
 “ contracted his limbs, and debi-
 “ litated his constitution, that
 “ when he was liberated, it was
 “ past the power of the faculty,
 “ to afford him any relief.

“ He was conveyed on board
 “ a vessel bound for England, tho’
 “ it was generally supposed he
 “ would not live to reach it.
 “ What words can express the
 “ state of mind his Father was
 “ in, at beholding his only son,
 “ brought home in a dying con-
 “ dition!—the day after his ar-
 “ rival,

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“ rival, he came to my Father
“ intreating me to hasten to his
“ Son ; it was his dying request
“ that he might once more see
“ me.

“ The poor old gentleman
“ wept and wrung his hands:
“ ‘What have I not been guilty
“ of, cried he, ‘by my cruelty ?
“ never, never, shall I regain
“ my peace of mind.’

“ I went, it was late in the
“ evening ; and when we ar-
“ rived at the house, I had hard-
“ ly power to support myself,
“ a cold tremor seized me;
“ and it was with difficulty, I

“ went

"went up stairs : a faint glim-
"mering taper lighted the room,
"where the dear youth lay ; the
"agonies of death had already
"seized him.

"Sir William led me to the
"bed-side ; 'My Frederick, said
"he,' 'here is Miss Spencer.'

"'Where! where! is she?' ex-
"claimed he, starting up in his
"bed and staring wildly about;
"then sinking gently down on
"his pillow, he took my hand,
"and looking tenderly on his
"Father and me ; 'Thanks to
"my Harriet,' said he, 'for thus
"anticipating my wishes; and
"now

" now I behold my Father and
 " you together, I die in peace:
 " may you both experience e-
 " very blessing, and may the
 " though's of my untimely fate,
 " never intrude a moment on
 " your happiness:—weep not my
 " dearest Harriet for me, for I
 " am'——happy, he would have
 " said but utterance was denied
 " him and heaving a gentle sigh,
 " he expired.

" Happy indeed should I have
 " been, had I never recovered from
 " the state of insensibility in which
 " I lay for some hours."

" Coming to myself, I found
 " I was laying on a sofa, and
 " an

" an old woman only attending
 " by me." ' Ah Miss,' said she, ' we
 " feared you was dead too.' ' Who
 " is dead?' said I wildly; leave me,
 " for I cannot bear the pains of
 " recollection.—She obeyed, and
 " I not knowing what I did, ran
 " hastily down stairs and out of
 " the house, unperceiv'd by any
 " one. In this state I walked
 " hastily for the space of half a
 " mile, when coming to a grove
 " of trees, which impeded my
 " passage, an Owl near me gave
 " a most dreadful scream, and the
 " village bell began to toll my
 " lover's funeral knell—the sound
 " awaked me from my reveries;
 " but the recollection of the scene
 " I had just quitted was too much

F

" for

“ for me to bear; I again fainted,
 “ and the cold ground for that
 “ night was my couch, the co-
 “ nopy of heaven my only co-
 “ vering.—I found myself in the
 “ morning in a strange place, far
 “ from any habitation, and it
 “ was with difficulty my trem-
 “ bling limbs supported me home.”

“ My Father and Mother were
 “ almost distracted at my not re-
 “ turning the night before, and
 “ had been searching for me ever
 “ since day-light. My Mother
 “ used every method of consoling
 “ me, but in vain; and I had but
 “ just recovered from a bed of sick-
 “ ness, when I experienced the loss
 “ of that dear amiable woman,
 “ whose

"whose death was hastened by
 "too close an attendance on
 "me.—I wonder I did not sink
 "under such complicated misery;
 "but heaven who best knows its
 "own time, has preserved me,
 "may I be permitted to say—
 "longer than I wished, for never
 "shall I regain my usual tran-
 "quility, nor do I think it will
 "be long before I shall join my
 "Mother and my Frederick in
 "those peaceful abodes where on-
 "ly the weary are at rest."

Poor Harriet! thou I fear will
 soon pay the debt, which all of
 us must discharge sooner or la-
 ter.—Tho' thou wilt be cut off

in the bloom of youth, beauty,
and innocence.

Adieu ! Emily, thy gentle nature
will, I know, shed a tear for the
sorrows of the lovely Harriet.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET.

LETTER XX.

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq.

AFTER five years absence, I am at last safe landed on my native shore—which I should never have quitted for so long a time—but to please my uncle, whose will I never yet disputed; Ungrateful indeed should I appear, did I even wish it.

My Father was possessed of considerable estates at the time he

F 3.

was

was united to my Mother; who having also a large fortune, they lived in a style of elegance inferior to none in the county—and for the first two years of their marriage, their lives were a series of uninterrupted harmony and domestic peace.

My Mother during her pregnancy having entertained an idea that she should not recover her lying in, persuaded my Father to pass that period in London, for the benefit of better advice.

Her presages proved but too true, for she survived my birth but a few days: before she expired, she endeavoured to persuade my
 Father

Father to enter again into a marriage state, that her little Charles might not know a Mother's loss, but in vain; distractedly fond of her, he would not even listen to her request, his life became burthensome, company reminded him of former happy scenes, and for some time he continued in a state little better than distraction.

His friends, to draw him from his thoughts, forced him into public; and one unlucky evening falling into company with a noted gamester, he was prevailed upon to engage at cards, and fortune smiling on him, he won a considerable sum: not wishing to injure any one whom he thought

had played only to amuse him, he appointed the ensuing evening for a second meeting, telling his antagonist that he should think he was in his debt, till he had disbursed himself of his winnings.

They met—my Father lost—the itch for gaming seized him—the more he lost the deeper he involved himself, and he rose from the table deprived of his whole estate, and two thousand pounds more than he was able to pay.

Now then was he lost indeed—whole days would he sit cursing his wayward fate which had thus led him on to his ruin.

Peace

Peace was now for ever a stranger to him, and fortitude he knew but by name; the loss therefore of his wife and fortune, were more than he could support.

He lost his senses, and died in three months, leaving me but two years old. My Mother's jointure devolved of course to me, part of which, my uncle gave up to defray the remainder of the gaming debt; and since the death of my Father, he has endeavoured all in his power to make me insensible of my loss. I am now on my journey to Doncaster, intending to surprise him with my appearance, as I have not written to inform him of my arrival.

I can now say that I have made the tour of France, Italy, &c. yet I know not any peculiar advantage I have derived from it.—

In every country do we find something to admire, something to condemn: the works of nature are admirable and surprising in every clime;—tho' after all my travels, I cannot say but I think my own country the most calculated of any to bestow happiness on the human species.

Partiality you will say, perhaps it is, but I have now no time to expatiate on the beauties of Old-England.

Pray Harry how goes on your
amour?

amour? you mentioned not a syllable of it in your last—by your silence I am left to form my own conjectures which were I to inform you, you would accuse me of flattery—be it as it will I suppose you will be noosed first.

My good old Uncle tells me he has been looking out these three years a wife for your humble, but his partiality makes him add that he cannot find one worthy of me.

Have wrote till my chaise is at the door, therefore must bid you Adieu.

CHARLES HAMILTON..

LET-

LETTER XXI.

To the Same.

DEAR HARRY,

Meynell-Lodge.

I Arrived last night at the Lodge,
and that I would not too suddenly surprise my Uncle and Aunt, I desired the servant to inform them a person would be glad to see them, who had lately seen Mr Hamilton. "Desire him to walk in"—I did so, and making a profound reverence, "I have taken the liberty Sir, said
I,

I, of calling,"—" Good heavens Charles," interrupted Mrs Meynel "how long have you been arrived in England?" " Not three days, madam—but I beg pardon for surprising you."

" It is a very agreeable one," said my Uncle, " so sit down, and inform us what brought you home without our knowledge of your intentions."

That, Harry, was explained in a few words, for making Paris in my way home, I chanced to meet with a fellow Collegiate, who was on the eve of setting out for England and therefore embraced the opportunity of accompanying him home.

The

The gentleman who was my protector, I had the misfortune to lose near three years ago; I say MISFORTUNE, for he was a man possessed of a benevolent heart, and a very superior understanding: he was born in affluence, but from misfortunes was obliged to seek a livelihood by forming the minds of the young, and training them up in virtue and morality.

He had experienced the loss of a beloved wife and only child, by a malignant distemper—and their remembrance were so firmly rooted on his memory, that he might literally be said to die of a broken heart. Poor Sedley! thy advice shall never be forgotten by me.

Before

Before he died, he called me to him and addressed me in these words :

“My dear young gentleman; I
 “am going to leave you in a
 “strange country, and far from
 “your friends; I could have wish-
 “ed to restore you to them, but
 “I murmur not, the period to
 “my existence is arrived, and I
 “submit.—Life as well as all o-
 “ther things, has its bounds af-
 “signed by nature, and death is to
 “the wretched as a safe harbour to
 “a weather-beaten weary travel-
 “ler. It has pleased providence
 “to place you in that sphere of
 “life from whence if you deviate
 “not

“not from the paths of virtue you
 “may derive much heartfelt satis-
 “faction.”

“Choose not your companions
 “from among the gay, the disso-
 “lute; their examples may please
 “for a time, but the hours spent
 “in their company will not bear
 “retrospection.”

“Esteem those your friends who
 “will advise you for your good,
 “and regard you because you are
 “so. Remember that, where thou
 “canst find no morals, find no
 “friend.”

“Above all things, give not
 “yourself up to that dreadful per-
 “nicious.

“ nicious custom of SWEARING, to
“ which the young men of this age
“ are so violently addicted—it is im-
“ possible that a reflecting mind can
“ ever look with satisfaction on a
“ person given to this vice; every
“ hour are they drawing down the
“ vengeance of Heaven on them-
“ selves, and imprecating the most
“ dreadful curses on their future
“ lives.”

I would wish to inculcate those precepts in your mind which will not only create admiration in your friends, but produce a pleasing sense of right in your own heart, and enable you in age to look back on a life WELL SPENT.

Much

Much more did the good man say—which I have engraven on my memory ; but which my time will not now admit of transcribing ; for by this time, I suppose, breakfast is waiting, which is now more agreeable than even scribbling to you ;

So I am thine,

CHARLES HAMILTON.

L E T:

LETTER XXII.

TO MISS LAWSON.

Elm-wood.

YOUR surmises have proved true, my friend. Mr. Phillips has declared himself the admirer of your Emily. And is this instant soliciting my Father's consent.

My agitation is unspeakable; I sat down to write, thinking to divert my thoughts from so interesting a subject, but must desist: my hand trembles, I fear you will not find
my

my letter legible - - - - -

My doom, Lucretia, is at last fixed :
and I have promised to be the wife
of Mr. Phillips in a month.—You
will doubtless accuse me of want of
confidence in not communicating to
you before so important a piece
of intelligence, but it is equally sud-
den to me, and appears more like a
dream than reality.

My Henry, may I not call him
MINE, but last night declared his
love. We were engaged in a par-
ty of pleasure, of which he was
one : our coach being full, I was
persuaded to fill the vacant seat in
Mr. Philips's phaeton—such an
opportunity perhaps might never
have

have offered again; it was a delightful calm evening, our road lay for some miles on the banks of a fine river.

My lover had interceptibly loosened the reins—the horses as if in complaisance to their master, but just walked;—He made the most of the time, and obtained my permission to solicit my Father's approbation of his addresses.

We were not at home till some time after the rest of the company, and were rallied upon our long stay. "I must own I have proved myself a bad guide to Miss Alton," said Henry without the least emotion, "but coming to a place where
three

“three roads met, I took the wrong,
 “and drove some miles out of
 “the way.”—“The excuse passed,
 though I could not recover my
 confusion for the whole evening.

Do, my dearest girl—favor me
 with your company. I need not
 say how necessary your advice and
 opinion will be to the happy

EMELIA.

My love to the dear Harriet; I
 have read and wept over her mis-
 fortunes: perhaps the change of air,
 and scene; may have a salutary effect
 on her complaint—tell her therefore
 I shall esteem myself favoured by
 her accompanying you.

LET -

L E T T E R XXIII.

TO THOMAS BARNES:

London.

I Desire you will instantly leave my house at Newmarket, and proceed to Moreton Castle in Scotland, where you may make every preparation necessary for the reception of a lady and myself:—take no one with you except the house-keeper, and two women servants; let no one enter the castle. Tell them that I am bringing down
lady

lady Moreton, who is just married, though you believe very much against her own consent.—If secret, a greater than the usual, reward attends you; if otherwise, beware of the anger of

MORETON.

LET.

LETTER XXIV.

TO CHARLES HAMILTON, Esq;

Clare-Hall.

YOU ask me how my amour goes on?—swingingly my boy; I am so enraptured, I know not how to inform thee; suffice it therefore to say, that I have this very morning obtained Mr. Alton's consent. And the lovely Emelia is to be mine this day month. Charles, thou must positively come to our wedding, and

a great favour it is I assure thee; for my Emelia insists on its being celebrated in as private a manner as possible—I have no objection to make to her request, but her father declares he will invite almost the whole country. “It is
 “the only wedding I shall ever see
 “in my family,” said the good old gentleman; “and I am resolved
 “to have my own way—I love
 “to see every one about me chear-
 “ful and happy; no expence shall
 “be spared in the entertainments
 “of the day.”

My charmer tried to alter her father's determination, but finding her endeavours proved fruitless,

lef, has contented herself, with
declaring she will do as she pleases
after that day.

Fail not to be with us, Hamil-
ton, as thou valuest the friend-
ship of thine

HENRY PHILLIPS.

G 2

L E T

L E T T E R XXV.

TO MISS SPENCER,

Elm-Wood.

I Have stolen an hour from sleep
to inform my Harriet, that
Emelia Alton, become this morn-
ing Mrs Phillips.

She was very much disappointed
at not seeing you, and says she
shall come and fetch you herself
down to Clare-hall, and will take
no denial.

I

I never saw so happy a family as is Mr. Alton's—all is harmony and peace, in this truly hospitable mansion: my Emelia was the only person who did not appear elated with joy. She came to me this morning, and said she wished she had not consented to marry Mr. Phillips, so soon after his declaring himself her lover.—“O fie! Emelia, would you wish to keep a worthy man in pain?” “No, but my mother, I cannot bear the thoughts of leaving her, I shall stand so much in need of her counsels; I have never been left to my own guidance.” “Why should you be so diffident of your own merit; take my word for it, you

“ will find yourself under no em-
 “ barrassment, I suppose then you
 “ would have a seminary institut-
 “ ed on purpose to teach young
 “ ladies how to conduct them-
 “ selves in the marriage STATE?”

“ A very useful institution
 “ indeed Miss Lawson for some
 “ of our modern fine ladies,”
 said Mr. Phillips, who just then
 entered to inform us the carriage
 waited.

Emelia trembled and blushed :
 I was glad to hurry away, vex-
 ed at being caught in lecturing
 my friend on a subject I should
 be supposed to know as little of
 as herself.

On

On our return from church, we were met by a party of the villagers, dressed alike in white jackets and rose coloured ribbons, who all of them being chosen for their skill in music, such as the taber, pipe, flute, &c. formed a most charming rustic band, which was equally nouvelle and pleasing.

We dined in the lawn behind the house; and among the trees Mr Alton had placed musicians, who charmed our ears, while our eyes were gratified with dancing, by a set of country girls: this tout ensemble, put us in mind of a scene in Arcadia.

In the evening we had a ball on the same lawn, which as well as the trees, was lighted by coloured lamps; the bows of the trees were bowed to form harbours at equal distances, under which were placed collations for the refreshment of the company.

You no doubt suppose I had some young smart Strephon for a partner—I had one, but neither young, smart, nor handsome—*you stare!*—Mr. Alton whose generous heart was expanded on the occasion, asked me in a very gallant manner, if I would honour him with my hand for the evening;—Mrs. Alton laughed, but I with the greatest composure replied,
 “ Sooner

“ Sooner than any other person of
“ my acquaintance, Mr Alton.”
“ That’s right, and though I have
“ not danced these twenty years,
“ I will convince you that I have
“ not outlived my dancing days.
“ Why may not an old man, in-
“ dulse himself with a young part-
“ ner, provided it is not for life?”

He was as good as his word, and
I believe was not so tired when
we broke up as your friend.—I
am so overpowered by the soft
persuasions of Morpheus, that
I must defer a description of dress
till we meet.

Expect me soon, for I am im-
patient to be with you,

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

G 5

L E T.

L E T T E R XXVI.

To Mrs PHILLIPS.

WILLING to be a witness
of my Emelia's happiness,
I left Miss Spencer very ill, but
that illness since my absence has
greatly increased: finding herself
at liberty she has indulged her
grief to an excess, that her delicate
constitution would not admit of,
consequently must I fear give way
to that powerful invader - - - - -
I have more cause for grief too,
Emely,

Emely, though more on her account than my own.

I have employed an able lawyer to compel Sir John Wyndham to give up my fortune, or his trust: he refuses to come to any éclaircissement concerning it, and has quitted the kingdom within these few days.—I have already been obliged to part with my trinkets, the loss of which I own is not at all felt by me; as my retired way of life does not render ornaments in my dress necessary.

I have not informed Harriet of my necessity, and will endeavour to obtain some kind of employment, whereby I may be able to main-

maintain the dear girl and myself.

Your generous offers will never be forgotten; but excuse me, Emily, when I say, I cannot bear to be in the least an intruder on the generosity of my friends.

I have no pride, I am not ashamed to work for a support; but I own it is hard that with an annual income of 1500l. I cannot, through the villainy of my guardian, obtain even a subsistence—

I have lately too been very much importuned by the addresses of an old nobleman, who resides opposite: he has wrote to me several times; the first letter I opened,

not

not knowing from whom it came; when, guess my surprise and indignation, at finding it contained offers of a settlement, on the most infamous terms.

I returned such an answer as the abandoned writer deserved, and have never suffered another to enter the house, though several have been sent.— Luckily, my old admirer has quitted his habitation, which if he had not done I must. — What, Emily, could he ever perceive in my conduct to authorize his base proposals?

Your's,

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

LET-

L E T T E R XXVII.

To Sir JOHN WYNDHAM.

I Have been obliged to have recourse to a stratagem, to deceive the virtuous Lucretia, which is that of quitting my house, in hopes thereby to drive her more off her guard, than she has been of late.

Since I first made her a proposal (which was more generous than I ever made before she has never stirred out: I have placed spies

spies near her house, to inform me of her proceedings, and am myself not far off.—Beware Lucretia, or thy lot is fixed. I have engaged our old friend, Mrs. Brown, to assist me in my intended journey; she is a very useful woman in her way: this moment do I see her pass the window, near which I am writing—to business therefore—horses I have ready—trusty attendants not far off—success most crown the well laid plan of your

MORETON.

LET-

L E T T E R XXVII.

TO MRS. PHILLIPS.

PARDON me madam, the intrusion of a person, unknown to you, except by name.

The unhappy occasion of my writing, will sufficiently plead my excuse.—Our dear friend, the charming Miss Lawson, is gone none knows whither.

She went out last night with an intention of returning in half

half an hour's time: two, three, four hours passed, but my dear benefactress never returned. I sat up all night, and dispatched the servants various ways, but without effect.

I fear the vile nobleman, whose infamous proposals she informed you of, has forced her away; alas! what may she not have suffered from his importunities.

Oh! madam, the loss, I fear, will be too much for my already shattered constitution.

Prosperity never yet, has blessed me with a friend, but adversity has

has almost instantaneously deprived me of the gift.

I have hitherto submitted with patience to the dispensations of providence, but this last shock has bereft me of all my fortitude.

I do nothing but weep—my only friend, my greatest benefactress to have thee torn away, by the merciless hands of a vile seducer.

For wherever thou art, I am confident 'tis much against thy inclinations.

My

My hand trembles, I have
scarce strength enough left to im-
plore your pity for

The unhappy

HARRIET SPENCER.

LET.

THE PERFIDIOUS GUARDIAN.

LETTER XXIX.

TO MISS SPENCER.

YOUR letter, my dear Miss Spencer, was delivered to me while in a room full of company, I retired to peruse it, and was so much affected by the contents, that I could not recover myself sufficient to return to my visitors.

My Henry excused me to them by saying I was taken suddenly

ill———Ill indeed I have been
—where can the lovely Lucretia
be—forced away by that vile
wretch—heaven forbid.

Mr. Phillips has been to every
town within twenty miles round,
to enquire if such a person has
passed or stopped at the different
Inns; but I suppose she has
been conveyed by some less fre-
quented road.

If you hear nothing of my dear
Lucretia within two days, I will
come to town and administer
what little consolation I have in
my power to bestow; though
alas,

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alas, I stand too much in need of
it myself.

Heaven restore our dear friend
to us, is the constant prayer of
your affectionate though afflicted,

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

LET.

LETTER XXIX.

TO SIR JOHN WYNDHAM.

York.

A Curse light on all intrigues
—all plottings whatever.

I have lost the only woman
I ever thought worth while to
take much pains about obtaining,
and from henceforth will I dis-
claim all connections with the sex.
—Never did I see such a vixen
—a perfect resemblance indeed of
her namesake, the Roman heroine.

I can-

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I cannot inform thee of the particulars of my disappointment—suffice it to say that all our schemes have proved abortive—Lucretia is taken out of my power, and so ends the amours of the famous

MORETON.

I have lost the only woman
I ever thought worth while to
take much pains about obtaining,
and from henceforth will I dis-
claim all connections with the sex.
—Never did I see such a vixen
to be so perfect a resemblance indeed of
her mistress, the Roman heroine.
I can

LETTER XXXI.

TO MISS SPENCER,

I Am once, more thanks to
prodence, permitted to in-
form my dear Harriet I am safe—
Heavens! what an escape.—I have
discovered such a complicated
scene of villainy, that the thoughts
of it still makes my blood run
cold through my veins.

As I was returning the evening
you missed me, from Mrs W——
the milliners, I was accosted by

H

a

a genteel young man, who pretended he was an intimate acquaintance.—“Bless me Miss Lawson, this rencontre is the most charmingly apropos, as I in vain endeavoured to find you for this month past—but you look as if you did not recollect me.” “Sir said I, you are certainly mistaken in the person you was looking for.” I was just going to leave him and hasten home, when another man came up to us.

“No, no, Miss, no mistake in the case.”

A post chaise and four instantly drove up to the place, and the last mentioned person threw a large hand-

handkerchief over my head, and drawing it tight round my face, conveyed me to the chaise.—An elderly gentleman and lady whom I did not see till after we had got some miles, on our journey, got in after me, and the chaise drove off.

The handkerchief was tied so tight round me, that I could not speak, they were under no apprehension therefore of my alarming the inhabitants of the towns through which we passed.

By the time my companions chose to loosen my BANDAGE, which was not till we had got on a large common, it was almost

drak :—and oh ! my dear friend, it is impossible for words to express my feelings.—In the power of a man I was an utter stranger to ; —deprived of the power of supplicating his mercy, or the mercy of any other person ; and the thoughts of my dear Harriet being ignorant of the cause of my absence altogether, caused sensations of grief and despair, hitherto a stranger in my bosom.

As soon as I could speak, I demanded the occasion of my being forced away in so infamous a manner ?—“ My dear creature,” said his lordship, “ it signifies nothing “ putting yourself in heroicks, I “ have been long enough trying to “ get

“ get you in my power, and have
“ paid dear enough for my pur-
“ chase; thirty thousand pounds is
“ surely adequate to the posses-
“ sion of the finest woman in the
“ world.”

“ Thirty thousand pounds, Sir,”
said I, “ I do not understand your
meaning.”

“ Why then, Miss Lawson, from
“ this time, you must look upon
“ me as the sole arbitor of your
“ fate ; Sir John Wyndham has
“ disposed of you to me, and the
“ only use I shall make of my
“ trust, is to nominate you mis-
“ tress of myself, affections and
“ fortune.”

H 3

“ A

“A very enviable situation,” said my female companion, interrupting him, “many a girl would think herself happy in Miss Lawson’s situation.”

“It is the only resource you have to fly to,” continued lord Moreton; “for as Sir John is master of the whole of your fortune, which I made over to him in exchange for you, poverty must in a short time have driven you into a situation, which I have timely relieved you from. A form like yours,” throwing his arms round me, “was never”—“My lord,” disengaging myself, “as I perceive I am indeed in your power, for heaven’s sake do
“ not

“not abuse that power; let the
 “supplications of a friendless
 “Orphan, for once be heard—
 “have pity on me.—Oh! Sir,
 (and my tears almost prevented
 my proceeding) “doom not a
 “wretched girl to misery—de-
 “pend upon it you will find more
 “satisfaction in granting my re-
 “quest than in the completion
 “of your infamous designs.”

“Oh! Madam, if pity was ever
 “an inhabitant in your breast, do
 “not refuse her admittance now;
 “for once place yourself in my
 “situation—deprived of the only
 “ornament of my sex, without
 “friends, without fortune—your

H 4

“gentle

“gentle nature must surely re-
 “coil at his diabolical scheme.”

“I cannot for my part perceive
 “any thing so vastly diabolical in
 “it;” replied she scornfully—my
 “lord is one of the most gene-
 “rous of men, and it will be your
 “fault if you are not the happiest
 “of women.”

“It shall not be mine,” said his
 lordship; “for lovely Lucretia, I
 “adore you, and will make it the
 “study of my life to render you
 “happy as your transcendent
 “beauty deserves.”

“Does happiness then consist
 “in infamy? oh no! no! never
 “will

“ will I consent to my own ruin;
 “ and as I find I am pleading my
 “ cause to two people destitute of
 “ humanity, I must look up to
 “ that Being for relief, who never
 “ forsakes the innocent.”

“ Verry pretty and romantic in-
 “ deed Miss,” replied Mrs Brown
 (the name of my female compa-
 nion) “ I suppose now when it
 “ comes to the trial, we shall have
 “ you attempting to kill us all, or
 “ else yourself, rather than con-
 “ sent to my lord’s honorable pro-
 “ posal: indeed Miss LUCRETIA,”
 laying a stress on my name, “ you
 “ are not deserving of so much
 “ favor.”

H 5 In

In this manner did we proceed that night, and got not out of the chaise till breakfast time. I was in hopes that I should have been able to make myself known to some one, but my cruel Duenna never quitted me for a moment. After breakfast, my Lord went out to give directions to his men: the mistress of the house entered and perceived me drowned in tears.—

“ My dear young lady, if I may
 “ be so bold, what can possibly
 “ make you so unhappy ?”

“ Aye, unhappy indeed,” replied Mrs Brown, not giving me time to answer ; “ a foolish girl, her father and I have been to fetch her from London, where
 “ she

“ she has been on a visit, and has
 “ contracted an acquaintance with
 “ a young gentleman, whom we
 “ do not think proper to encourage,
 “ consequently, insist d upon
 “ her not seeing him again, and
 “ that is the reason of those tears.”

“ ’Tis false! indeed, ’tis false:”
 said I “ I have no father, no mother,
 “ no friend.

I could not proceed, my agitation was inexpressibly great; I fainted—and recovered not till we were on our journey.

“ To what fresh insults am I
 “ to be subjected? what new trials
 “ am I to undergo?—alas!—un-
 “ happy,

"happy, forlorn Lucretia! thou
 "hast no father, no brother, to
 "avenge thy cause." I again
 burst into tears, and covering my
 face with my handkerchief, re-
 mained for some time stupified
 with grief.

"Why my dearest girl, do you
 "thus afflict yourself?" said his
 lordship, "perhaps you do not
 "like to be taken so far from the
 "metropolis, if so we will return
 "this instant, or to any other place
 "you chuse to be conveyed to;
 "name but your wish, and be
 "assured that I will comply with
 "any requisition, but the relin-
 "quishing all I hold dear, your
 "charming self."

"Then

“ Then my lord, I have no-
“ thing else to ask; time or place,
“ shall never make any alteration
“ in my sentiments: never, never,
“ will I consent to your infa-
“ mous designs.”

I was determined to pay no more attention to his discourse, and uttered not another word, till the time of my deliverance arrived.

We travelled till evening without alighting, when coming to a large town where we were obliged to stop to change horses, I felt my spirits more elated than they had been since the commencement of our Journey, fancying I should
have

have it in my power to cry out for assistance ; nor were my surmises ill founded, for as soon as the chaise stopped at a capital inn, I perceived standing at the door, Mr. Hamilton, a very intimate friend of Mr. Phillips, and who was present at Miss Alton's wedding.—I screamed with joy, and put my arm out to let down the window, as did his lordship to pull up the blinds—I was resolute, and with my right hand, gave him such a blow in the face, that his head went against the window, and broke the glass to pieces.

Upon this, Mr Hamilton came up to the chaise, and exclaimed,
 “ Good

“ Good God, Miss Lawfon here!”
“ O Sir,” said I, “ if you have
“ any compassion, rescue me from
“ these wretches; I have been
“ cruelly forced away; but indeed
“ I am innocent.”

He left me before I concluded my speech, and went up to the postillion, in whose hand he put something, I imagine money, by the man’s behaviour.

It is impossible to describe my two companions rage, at finding themselves thus foiled; his lordship in vain bid the postillion drive on, he swore he would not stir, till the young lady was got safe out of the carriage.

By

By this time, Mr. Hamilton came with several more gentlemen, and opening the door of the chaise with difficulty, as they strove to detain me, took me in his arms, conveyed me into the house, and put me under the protection of the landlady, till he had secured his lordship from making any farther attempts. I no sooner found myself safe, than I fell on my knees to thank heaven for my timely deliverance—my joy was so excessive, that I did not for some time recollect the danger my preserver might expose himself to on my account. I ran to the window, and beheld Lord Moreton seated in the chaise, between two of the gentlemen, who
were

were just setting off for London, and offered to accompany him back.

I could not perceive Mrs. Brown; but was informed afterwards, that one of the gentlemen who knew her, had engaged to convey her safe to some place of confinement, threatening her with a prosecution for keeping a house of ill fame. As soon as his lordship and his colleague were departed, Mr Hamilton came to me, and with a politeness peculiar to himself insisted on my taking some refreshment, which I stood much in need of; though till then, I never bestowed a thought on any thing
but

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but the means of my making my escape.

I thanked him, and told him that I should ever esteem myself indebted to him for more than life; and recounted to him the particulars of my being in the situation he had freed me from.

“Talk not of any obligation,
“Miss Lawson, I am sufficiently
“repaid, in being fixed upon by
“chance as the means of your es-
“caping from the attempts of
“vile Lord Moreton; but my
“dear madam, as I am certain
“you must have suffered greatly
“from fatigue, permit me to offer
“an asylum at Mr. Maynell’s,
“an

“an uncle and only relation of
“mine, who lives but two miles
“from hence: if I have your
“permission, I will instantly
“dispatch my servant for my
“aunt. I will not ask you to
“put yourself under my pro-
“tection.”

I hope I did not infringe on the rules of delicacy by accepting the invitation, but I did not think it safe neither to remain at an Inn, or to return to London at that time of night (for it was now dark) by myself.

We had scarce done sipping our coffee, before Mrs. Maynell arrived—I was prepossessed in her
favour

favour the moment I beheld her ; she is far advanced in years, but there is such a heavenly benignity pourtrayed in her countenance, that you have only to lament that age is the precedent to an emancipation from life.

She received me, as did Mr. Maynell, with as much tenderness as if I had been their daughter.

“ It is not the first time we have
 “ heard of Miss Lawfon, said Mr.
 “ Maynell, Charles has often
 “ mentioned you to us in the
 “ highest terms, but from appear-
 “ ance, I do not think there is
 “ any flattery in the picture.”

I blushed, and cast my eyes towards Mr. Hamilton; he appeared to be in the greatest confusion, and rising hastily quitted the room.

What am I to conjecture from his extraordinary behaviour—he could not think my blushes a proof of guilt.—I have in vain endeavoured to form an excuse, though I know not for what reason, conscious of my own innocence, why I should suppose any one harbours suspicion against me.—It is vanity so inherent in our natures, that made me fancy I was the cause of so unusual an agitation.

I am extremely indebted to them for their favourable opinion of me, and of a misfortune I shall think it most fortunate, as it has brought me acquainted with so amiable a family.

Mrs. Maynell called me into her dressing room this morning, and told me she was informed of some part of my history, but wished to know from myself the particulars. — She intreated my pardon for her curiosity, but said she had reasons for so doing.

I concealed nothing from her she was shocked at the villainy of my guardian; and taking out of her escrutore, a note for
one

one hundred pounds, insisted upon my acceptance of it, at least for the present; and added, “ As
 “ I suppose my dear, you would
 “ wish to return to London, I
 “ will not ask you to stay—but
 “ insist upon it you will return to
 ‘ us again, as soon as you can
 “ make it agreeable to Miss Spen-
 “ cer and yourself, whom I desire
 “ you will bring with you.—I
 “ will myself accompany you,
 “ and shall think the time long
 “ till I see you settled under my
 “ roof.”

So much goodness quite over-
 came me; I could not answer her,
 but threw my arms round her
 neck and wept—when I was a lit-
 tle

the recovered, I said, "Permit me,
 "madam, thus to acknowledge
 "your goodness," and threw myself
 at her feet: she would not let
 me proceed, but with tears in her
 eyes, told me I should be to her
 a second daughter; and retired to
 conceal her emotions.

We set off to-morrow morning,
 when I hope to find my Harriet
 amended in health and spirits.

Till then, adieu,

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

I am fatigued with writing,
 you will also be so with reading.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXII. .

TO HENRY PHILLIPS, Esq.

THOUGH I have never taken
the oaths of Chivalry, I have
commenced KNIGHT ERRANT,
and have performed one of the
greatest commands enjoined in the
order ; I have rescued a damsel
from the arms of her ravisher —
but LA FOLLIE apart ; I have been
the happy means of rescuing Miss
Lawson from that wretch, Lord

VOL. I.

I

Moreton,

Moreton, and the infamous Nelly Brown, of —— whom he had bribed to assist him in his villainous attempt.

You, I know, are not that philosopher, that could behold the charms of a fine woman in distress unmoved; by my soul, nor I neither, especially when a FINE PERSON is the habitation of a virtuous soul, and a beautiful face speaks the numberless charms of the mind.

My uncle told me this morning he had long wished to see me settled, and had never till now, seen any woman whom he thought so well calculated to render a man
happy

happy in the marriage-state as Miss Lawfon.

“ However, I do not wish you
 “ Charles,” said he, “ to marry
 “ against your inclination ; take
 “ your own choice, you have my
 “ consent to pay your addresses to
 “ her, and may you both be hap-
 “ py as your merit deserves.”

I told him, that so far from
 marrying against my inclinations,
 it gave me the greatest pleasure
 to find he was not averse to such
 an union.—“ I was afraid that
 “ the present situation of her af-
 “ fairs”—“ The more need then
 “ has she of a protector ;” inter-
 rupting me, “ want of fortune,

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“ Charles, is never any object to
“ me ; I have enough, and when
“ I DIE, you shall have all I am
“ possessed of.”

Generous man ! I was affected :
I took him by the hand, and
telling him that GRATITUDE,
the only recompence I could
make, should be ever liberal
in her offerings, at the shrine
of so much goodness. — I re-
tired.

Oh Henry ! did the lovely maid
behold me with half the regard
I feel for her, nothing would be
wanting to compleat my felicity.

Oh !

Oh! tell me what is more
charming than to see—

Two hearts united by their dearest ties;
Their every wish, the every joy the same:
Each finds in each, a dearer self.—Their souls
Glow with a sacred fire, which love has kindled,
And honour purg'd from all the vulgar dross
Of creeping, base devices—and low pursuits.

I am rambling I know not where,
picturing to myself scenes of bliss
that perhaps may never arise.—
'Tis time therefore to subscribe
myself

Your's,

CHARLES HAMILTON.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

TO MRS PHILLIPS,

WAS it possible for the friendship I bear to my Emily to admit of any increase—your kindness to Miss Spencer would fix me ever yours—had it not been for your care, nature would certainly have given way to her disorder before my return.

She is considerably worse than when you left us.—I never leave her ;

her ; and am writing this by her bedside while she sleeps.

The physician you sent for to her, gives me no hopes of her recovery ; he says, she may linger another month, but he does not think she will hold out many days longer.

“ Oh death ! thou dissolver of
“ all human ties, thou art often
“ welcome to the victim, but how
“ great a tyrant to those thou
“ leavest behind : alas ! little dost
“ thou regard a parent’s tears ! an
“ orphan’s sighs ;—couldst thou
“ by permitting my friend, my
“ Harriet to live—restore to her,
“ her health, her happiness—the
“ boon

“ boon would be worth supplicat-
 “ ing for, but when thou piercest
 “ her soul with one of thy deadly
 “ venomed arrows, thou wilt
 “ transport her among her kin-
 “ dred angels, where in exchange
 “ for a life of misery, she will re-
 “ ceive a crown of endless joy
 “ and IMMORTALITY.”

Not perceiving me in the room
 when she awoke, I heard her ad-
 dress herself to Heaven, in the
 most ardent manner, and con-
 cluded praying the Almighty to
 shower down his blessings on my
 Emily and me. “ Grant them,”
 said she, “ every comfort, and
 “ may they never know the sor-
 “ rows the wretched Harriet has
 “ ex-

“ experienced ; but be still, my
 “ wayward heart, I am drawing
 “ fast towards that place, whi-
 “ ther I have long been wishing
 “ to arrive.”

I quitted the room to give vent
 to my tears ; and when I returned,
 found her still more weak, though
 composed and perfectly resigned
 to her fate. She calls me—she
 has a request to make, what can
 it be ? I fly to attend her. I will
 write again soon.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

Is

LET-

L E T T E R X X X I V .

TO LORD MORETON.

Montpellier.

MORETON, I am ill, I feel
I have not long to live ; I
would wish therefore to say a few
words to you before I die. There
are none so capable of giving ad-
vice, as those who have split upon
the rock of temptation.

I am heartily glad that Lucretia
Lawson is safe out of thy power—
her

her escape has taken a load off my conscience, that almost weighed me down.

You I know, are older than I am; so much the worse, you will however have more time to repent.

We have been companions, if wish I could say friends, ever since we attained the years of manhood.

We have been engaged in the same pursuits, and run the same mad career of pleasure; beware, Moreton, lest you are punished as I am: afflicted with a loathsome disease, of which I have no
 I 6 chance

chance of relief; and above all, tormented with a consciousness of guilt.

I have wronged the fatherless.
—Ah! there lies the sting.

Had you succeeded in seducing that lovely innocent girl, I should not have been more guilty than I am now.

I sold her to you, and would have bartered innocence for money, to purchase other lawless pleasures.

Alas! how short have been their reign; like a winter's fun, its beams are warm and chearing for

a time, but disappearing, leave us to experience the chilling blast, with still greater severity.

I have betrayed the sacred trust reposed in me:—that thought will never allow me a moment's rest.

Repent my friend, and if you can, come to me, I am an object you will scarce recognize. Lady Wyndham, finding through extravagance I was unable to support her in the same style of dissipation as formerly, has deserted me, and is gone to Italy with a young nobleman of that country: false! ungrateful Charlotte! but

I

I deserve it, and ten thousand times worse than she can inflict.

She told me she married but for a title, affection she had none for me.—The wreck of my fortune has barely left enough to support me above indigence; but had I never been possessed of more, I had perhaps been happy.

Adieu, Moreton; the retrospection of past events is painful. Think of the wretched

WYNDHAM

And you may yet be happy.

LET.

L E T T E R X X X V .

To Mrs PHILLIPS.

THE dear sufferer is gone!
she expired yesterday morning.—O Emily! never did I behold such resignation.—She called me to her, as I informed you at the conclusion of my last letter.—I undrew the curtain, and asked her how she found herself?—she looked on me with a smile of sweet composure, and bade me sit down by her—my heart mis-
gave

gave me by her manner ; I perceived she had not long to live.—

“ My dear Miss Lawfon,” said she, “ I am going to bid you a long farewell, but weep not for me, did you know the happiness I feel, you would not pity, but envy my situation.—A short time will terminate my existence and sorrow together.— I have in a dream, beheld my mother, and my Frederick, who bid me hasten to partake with them of joys inexpressible,

“ I feel myself as if I was already an inhabitant of another world :—when I look back on the whole tenor of my life, I
can

“ can find few enormous faults
 “ to charge myself with.—May
 “ the Almighty endow you, my
 “ dear ladies (perceiving Mrs.
 “ Maynell just entering the
 “ room) with every blessing—
 “ may you my dearest Miss Law-
 “ son, glide gently through the
 “ sea of life, unruffled by the
 “ storms of adversity and afflic-
 “ tion ; and when at last, you ar-
 “ rive at that safe port where the
 “ weary are at rest, may you feel
 “ that inward satisfaction, that
 “ perfect resignation that I do—
 “ May I, my dear friend, still
 “ further intrude upon your good-
 “ ness—I should like to be buried
 “ near my parents, and my Fre-
 “ derick, who dying in the same
 “ parish,

“parish, their graves are not far
“apart.”

I assured the dear girl, that every wish she could form, should be complied with. She was satisfied. “And now,” resumed she, “dear shades of those I once held
“most dear, I come—I rejoin you
“for ever—bless my friends—
“receive my”—She concluded not, but heaving a long sigh, expired.

Oh Emelia! you know not the loss I have sustained—Mrs. Maynell has visited me almost every day since my return, and does her utmost to console me. I have insisted on attending my
poor

poor Harriet's remains, to the family vault; a task by no means pleasing, but it is the last tribute I can pay to an amiable departed friend.

The village where she was born, does not lie above thirty miles from Maynell Lodge; and Mrs Maynell has kindly offered to accompany me, and insists on my quitting my house and residing with her.—Had it not have been for her goodness, I must have quitted it ere this, but in how different a manner!—I know not how to resist her intreaties, but the thoughts of my being a dependant on the generosity of my friend, is so dissonant to my feelings,

ings, that I shall endeavour after I have been with Mrs. Maynell some little time, to obtain a genteel employment, whereby I may be enabled to live.

I have enclosed you a small trinket, which Miss Spencer begged you would accept.

Adieu, Emily.—All happiness attend you and your Caro Sposo.

LUCRETIA LAWSON.

Direct your next to Meynell Lodge, near Doncaster.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

TO SIR JOHN WYNDHAM.

IN the name of wonder, what is come to thee Wyndham! talk of repentance, dying, and the Lord knows what!—Rouze—rouze, my friend, and be again yourself.

As you wish to see me, I will take a trip to the Continent; I have another reason for visiting you, the person (an insignificant country

try gentleman) who took Miss Lawson from me, has thought proper to send me a challenge, I intend therefore to treat him as his temerity deserves, and set off for France before he has received my answer. Not one woman in the world do I think worth fighting for—so Mr. Hamilton your ambition (for it could be no other motive that could induce him to place himself in competition with me) shall for once be disappointed.

Perceiving yesterday, as I passed the house where Miss Lawson lives, a hearse and other appendages for a funeral, standing at the door, I enquired the meaning
and

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and learnt that a Miss Spencer the companion of Lucretia, was dead, and was going to be interred down in the country.

I expect to be with you in a week, till when exert yourself; enter into company and be again the gay, the lively Windham you once was: give not yourself up to dispondence---drive away the demon of melancholy that possesses you, and let us once more meet with a fresh relish for the pleasures of the world, and particularly that part of it where you now are.

MORETON.

LET-

LETTER XXXVII.

To Miss LAWSON.

AND is your amiable companion then no more---indeed Lucretia I pity you, for little as I saw of Miss Spencer, she engaged my esteem for her virtues, and pity for her misfortunes: the present she bequeathed me I will wear in remembrance of her, and never will I part with it.

Alas,

Alas! what pity it was that
so amiable a disposition should
be obliged to bear

“The spurs

“That patient merit of the unworthy takes.—”

I shall never forgive Lady
Wyndham for her treatment of
the friendless Harriet, but she
knew not the value of a sensible
friend, or how many happy
hours might she not have passed
in her society, which were de-
voted to dress; and visiting, gam-
ing, and public places.

Oh Lucretia! happy indeed
do I esteem myself, in being
VOL. I. L blessed

blest with parents, who have taught me the real use of my time, and have not, like too many of my age, been permitted to seek improper resources for passing away the TEDIOUS days, —— TEDIOUS indeed to those who know not for what they were designed.

I cannot omit paraphrasing on the valuable productions of an intimate friend—though conscious of my inability in attaining the qualifications she particularizes, yet I am confident my Lucretia possesses them all.

An

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" An easy mind engaging in address,
" Looks which at once, each winning grace
 express

" A life where love and truth, are ever join'd,

" A nature, ever great, and ever kind ;

" A wisdom solid, and a judgment clear,

" The smile indulgent, and a soul sincere ;

" Meek without meanness, gentle and humane,

" Fond of improving, but yet never vain,

" So justly good, so faithful to her friend,

" Ever obliging, cautious to offend.

" A mind whose gen'rous pity stands con-
 fess'd,

" Ready to ease and succour the distress'd :

" If these respect and admiration raise,

" They surely must demand our greatest praise ;

" In one bright view the accomplish'd maid
 we see,

" The virtues all are thine, and thou art she."

K 2

You

You quite distress me, by asserting that when you have resided with Mrs. Maynell some little time, you will endeavour to procure employment—that will prevent your being burthensome to your friends. — Cruel suggestion! — harbour no such sentiments, unless you will wound your Emily in the tenderest part.

Why, my dear girl, will you still persist in refusing to render me happy in your company? at least you may divide your time between Mrs. Meynell
and

and me ; can you refuse the only boon friendship ever sued for? do not let me ask in vain, but come to us — for where you are, (I could say, if it would not occasion a particle of vanity to diffuse itself) vivacity and delight resides.

Knowing the unconquerable aversion I retain to seriousness, I need not apologize for being tired with so long dwelling on a subject — I shall therefore change the theme to a discourse that took place yesterday afternoon, between an elderly gen-

tleman, an intimate of Mr. Phillips's, and your most obsequious; his being a friend of ours, made me resolve to take the liberty of correcting his peculiar antipathy to the fair sex in general.

Women were the topic of my discourse—my Henry was praising the conduct of a young lady in Portland Place, who had eloped with a lieutenant, rather than sacrifice herself to an old emaciated coxcomb, who had permission from her mother to supplicate her consent, owing to his

his exalted situation in life, and the old lady's ideas who allowed the male might in age double that of the female.

“ Don't tell me of the young lady's conduct,” vociferated the old gentleman; at the same time uttering an impious oath, “ A little impudent, artful huffy, she is
 “ a model of the whole sex, I have
 “ never found a virtuous woman,
 “ and have been seven and fifty
 “ years in quest of one—now I
 “ have given over the pursuit,
 “ being resolved to seclude my-
 “ self from all intercourse with

K 4.

the

“faithless sex.” Rather piqued at the aspersion thrown out, I retorted,

“In what part of the world
“does the Cynic breath, that he
“meets such difficulty in find-
“ing a virtuous woman, and
“seems like another Diogines,
“poking about with a lanthorn,
“with this difference, that Dio-
“gines’s lanthorn had a candle
“in it, the other none?

“There is as much virtue in
“the women now a days, as
“ever there was, there always
“were

“ were some, who would part
“ too easily with that inestimable
“ gem their reputation--and owing
“ to those few misguided wretches
“ —who perhaps fell from in-
“ nocence and happiness, to mi-
“ sery and shame, through the
“ fatal expectations of grandeur,
“ and the artifices of the basest
“ of men.

“ On that ground, the whole
“ sex is supposed to have caught
“ the infection, but we are
“ not to draw our conclusions
“ on the whole, by so small a
“ particle erring from the rules
“ of rectitude.

“ The

“ The great misfortune of
 “ people of high rank is, their
 “ vices make deeper impression
 “ on the mind than their virtues;
 “ they may be compared to
 “ the stars, if but one removes
 “ from its exalted situation,
 “ it excites the surprize and asto-
 “ nishment of the multitude, and
 “ yet they take no notice of those
 “ numberless luminaries, which
 “ keep their situation, and shine
 “ with unabating lustre.

“ Scour off the rust, good Mr.
 “ Henderson, with which time,
 “ like an uncleanly housewife,
 “ has

“has covered your senses—and
“I will venture to affirm that
“beauty, love, and virtue, like the
“noon-tide sun will flash upon
“you: most old men, like the
“transit of Venus, blacken the
“face of beauty; they judge of
“the fair sex as in other more
“material things with too frigid
“a constitution, often mistaking
“their desire of innocent amuse-
“ment for their inclinations, and
“the forerunners of their de-
“struction.”

During the interval of my ani-
madversions, I perceived I had con-
fused

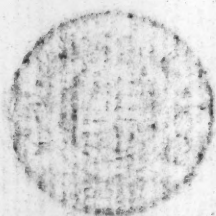
fused my antagonist, who though a veteran, was fairly confuted. Unable to devise any other expedient to escape my observation, he pretended much attention to the labels that encircled the wine decanters, as likewise to the contents of the bottles; for during the time I was replying to his satirical declaration, he drank three or four glasses of Maderia, which I concluded would inspire him with additional loquacity, therefore withdrawing, I petitioned my Harry to support my argument, which he assured

assured me in the affirmative, by
a nod.

As the door was closing, I over-
heard the Antediluvian exclaim,
“May I be shackled in the bonds
“of marriage, if ever I was so con-
“founded and defeated by a wo-
“man before—why, she is a per-
“fect termagant.”

“No! no!” replied Mr.
Phillips, “you mistake her, she
“is the reverse, but you have
“touched upon the only subject
“that could offend her, and un-
“less you apologize, I cannot
“insure her forgiveness.”

Un-



Unwilling to hear further, I departed, flattering myself I shall never be offended with his imprecations against my sex any more. Had you, my dear girl, been present, I am confident I should have converted him. In that opinion.

I remain

Your's

EMELIA PHILLIPS.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



AN.

r, I
shall
im-
any
girl,
nt I
In

r's

LIPS.

ME.